## Mayor's Welcomes Are Multi-Lingual



By William McLaughlin

Mayor McKeldin, master of many political tongues, now greets Chinese visitors with the preceding message in their native picture writing. EVO. SUI"

The three-sentence message is printed on a small sheet of paper contained in the box with each official key to the city presented a

visiting dignitary 9 1984 The Mayor gave away about 30 of these keys in the last year. Since nearly a quarter of them were awarded to foreigners, the Mayor decided to ask the permanent delegations to the United Nations to translate the paragraph into their native languages.

## **English Translation**

About 100 mimeographed letters went out to the delegations requesting the translations.

"These went out, unfortunately, in a terrific hurry." explains an administrative assistant to the Mayor. "I did sort through them rapidly to eliminate Conglish around by a bandaran, the con-speaking countries.

tive of English-speaking Jamaica lish spoken in the United King-



BAFFLING SCRIPT-Sonja Reynolds looks confused by some of the more than 30 replies from delegations to the United Nations offering translations of a paragraph of explanation offered with each official key to the city given by the mayor.

"Dear Mr. Mayor: Here is the message translated into the language of my country.

"This key has been fashioned from a timber of the United States at least the first three words ex-Frigate Constellation . . . , " the cept Cuba, Guatemala and Co-"translation" reads.

"If this message were read aloud by a Jamaican," the corferences in accent could be de-"Nevertheless, some did slip tected between the American and through," the aid admits 1964 Jamaican English, and, indeed One reply, done the representa between Jamaican and the Engdom, but our written language is the same." EVE. SUN

Spanish Disagreement A cursory inspection of the Spanish translations, eleven indicated that all eleven agreed on

For the third word, Colombians used "representa," while the Guatemalans said "fue" and the Cubans "se."

One letter Unight Let 1964 representative of a Communist country in trouble, since the "P.S." to his reply could so easily be interpreted as a complaint about conditions in his East Central European "satellite" country.

meaning given the word 'coin,' the writer of this letter complained. He is an attache with the Polish Peoples Republic.

Noncommittal Replies Other correspondents were far less willing to commit themselves to possible controversy. "I am very pleased to send you attached, herewith, the translation . . . although it cannot be taken as an official translation," the note from the Spanish mission

Whatever was the immediate purpose of the Mayor's letters to the United Nations delegations, they almost certainly were heartily accepted as an example of goodwill.

Perhaps typical of the feeling expressed in a majority of the replies was this from the Yemen Arab Republic: 100 SIII "I am sure that this charming

gesture bestowed on foreign visitors by you as the mayor of Baltimore will go a long way to promote international understanding." JUL 9 1964